



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 112th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 158

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 2012

No. 38

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Almighty God of the universe, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We pray for the gift of wisdom to all with great responsibility in this House for the leadership of our Nation.

May all the Members have the vision of a world where respect and understanding are the marks of civility and where honor and integrity are the marks of one's character.

As Members take time in the coming week for constituency visits, give them the ability to hear the voices of all in their districts, so that when they return they are focused on the important work to be done.

Bless us this day and every day, and may all that is done within these hallowed Halls be for Your greater honor and glory.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIERREZ) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GUTIERREZ led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches from each side of the aisle.

SUPPORT THE JUMPSTART OUR BUSINESS STARTUPS ACT

(Mr. CANTOR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Jumpstart Our Business Startups Act.

Our Nation's success has been built by individuals who turn innovative ideas into small businesses. By taking risks and working hard, our small business owners drive the majority of job creation in this country.

Right now it's just too difficult to start up a business. The threat of higher taxes and increased regulations has small businessmen and -women and entrepreneurs frozen in their tracks. Small businesses and start-ups simply do not have the bandwidth to comply with Washington's redtape, and yet they are the ones we're counting on to create jobs.

Mr. Speaker, the JOBS Act will get small businesses and entrepreneurs back into the game by removing costly regulations and making it easier for them to access capital. This legislation also paves the way for more start-ups and small businesses to go public, which will attract new investors and will allow small businesses to grow and create jobs.

In his State of the Union address, President Obama asked Congress to send him a bill that helps start-ups and entrepreneurs succeed. The JOBS Act that we'll be voting on today does exactly that. Our bill brings together commonsense measures that have bipartisan support here in Washington and from business leaders across the country, including former AOL chairman and founder Steve Case.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize my colleagues who have worked on the JOBS Act, including Congressman STEPHEN FINCHER, Whip KEVIN MCCARTHY, Congressman DAVID SCHWEIKERT, Congressman BEN QUAYLE, Congressman PATRICK MCHENRY, Congressman JOHN CARNEY, and many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle.

Let's build on this bipartisan momentum, Mr. Speaker. This week, President Obama offered his support for the JOBS Act. I strongly urge Senator REID to take up this bill as quickly as possible and let's just get it to the President's desk.

Mr. Speaker, the American people want to see us get something done and produce results. With the JOBS Act, we do have a window of opportunity for both parties in Washington to come together and produce results. We must make sure America remains the place where extraordinary success can be achieved by individuals who are willing to take risks and work hard.

PEDRO GRANT

(Mr. GUTIERREZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, Puerto Rico lost one of the towering figures of its labor movement, Pedro Grant, at the age of 92.

Throughout his life, Mr. Grant was an example for the struggle for justice. He was one of the main leaders of the United Workers Movement, which led to the revival of the labor movement in Puerto Rico in the sixties and seventies.

By his example, Mr. Grant taught us that a life well lived is a life devoted to the struggle for justice and human rights and dignity for working people. He was a lifelong fighter against abuses of power and standing up for the little guy. He was a Puerto Rican patriot whose wisdom and strength will be sorely missed.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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